

A BRIDGE TOO FAR GONE



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

Work on the vintage bridge that connects West Cliff Drive to downtown is almost complete.

Bridges Downtown connection rehab nearly complete

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The passage of construction trucks over the historic trestles bridge that connects downtown to West Cliff Drive is a sign that the bridge is “90 to 95 percent complete,” Public Works officials say.

SANTA CRUZ

The vintage Howard truss bridge, built in

1918, was closed in 1992 after engineers determined that it wasn't strong enough to carry the 9,000 cars that traveled over it daily before that. Now the new bridge, remade using parts of the old trusses and new wood with concrete facing, will also include new amenities.

Chris Schneiter, interim director of public works, said the \$2 million bridge project will have street lights designed to replicate

the look of early 20th century lighting, a bike lane and a pedestrian walkway.

“We rebuilt it out of wood, which is rare,” Schneiter said. “It will look better than it ever has. There will be historical street lighting and landscaping.”

Schneiter said the city is aiming for a late September or early October reopening of the bridge. Until then, the city will concentrate on paving, striping and installing guard rails on the new bridge.